Dear Jim, 2/28/75

On the Harris deal with Harpers I have a few suggestions and opinions.

If Harris is connected with it there is a presumption it is not good.

If O'Toole is connected with it, ditto.

I don't think any of us should write it. I do think all of us, including Bud, can't have any association with O'Toole on this. I firmly believe that an issue of it must be made with Bud if he disagrees. There is no real choice but confronting Bud.

I think the one safe formula and the one kind of story that can avoid being nutty and perhaps can help is in the form of an interview with me, with the topics to be agreed to in advance by you, and with it to be taped, us having the tape for the future.

They could have a staffer do the interview.

There will be problems. Harpers can't justify the way they treated me/us on WWIV so they'll tell themselves we are impossible and nutty.

We can't stop them from doing what they want to do. But we can refuse to be part of it. This means disassociation completely, even by talking to O'Toole, whose book will coincide and it is intended to promote.

If you can't reach Bud any other way, remind him of my silence and that when the decision proves I was right I have been silent and not to tempt me. Remind him also that when O'Toole first appeared and he asked you to ask my opinion I said we have no business with any association with any device of the polict state and that I now think Jimmy will feel the same way. About any O'Toole association.

And that if he doesn't now, in time he may when it can hurt.

I think that no ordinary story and none of which O'Toole is even capable can do us any good. Why run any risk? We are better off with no story or complete disassociation unless the story says what we want to say the way we want to say it.

Best,